(c) the number of licences issued during 1996-97 till date;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints/suggestions about the working of these agencies;

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(f) whether some unauthorised agents are also working in this field; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) the number of authorised Custom House Agents in Delhi is 460.

(b) the licencing of Custom House Agents is governed by the provisions of Custom House Agents Licencing Regulations 1984. Issue of temporary licences is governed by Regulations 4 to 8 which, inter-alia, provide for the method of invitation of application, the details to be furnished in the application, the conditions to be fulfilled by the applicants, and the scrutiny of the application. The grant of regular licences is governed by Regulations 9 to 11 which, inter-alia, provide for passing of an examination by the person or employees of the firms who have been granted a temporary licence, for furnishing a security and execution of a bond by the prospective licensee etc.

(c) 31 temporary licences have been issued during 1996-97, till date.

(d) to (g) The Government have not received any complaints/suggestions about working of the Agents at Delhi Custom House. Nor has the Governement received any reports about any unauthorised Agents working at Delhi. As such, no action is required to be taken in this regard.

Reservation of Women in Parliament

1101. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have started preparing a constitutional amendment bill to reserve one third of seats for women in Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies, and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) A proposal to reserve one-third of seats for women in Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies is under active consideration of the Government and a formal decision in the matter is expected to be taken shortly.

Seizure of Goods at I.G.I. Airport

1102. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the foreign currency and smuggled goods seized by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence at the Indira Gandhi International Airport from 1st January to 30th June, 1996;

(b) the number and details of the persons arrested in this connection; and

(c) the action taken against those persons?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have detected four cases of attempt to smuggle goods at Indira Gandhi International Airport from 1.1.96 to 30.6.96 leading to seizure of assorted foreign currencies equivalent to Rs. 153.99 lakhs and foreign market gold weighing 15.251 Kgs valued at Rs. 80.17 lakhs. Four persons have been arrested in this regard. The names of persons and action taken against them are as follows :-

1. Shri Herbert Blazek detained under COFEPOSA.
2. Shri Abdul Quddose Rehman &
3. Shri Mohd. Aslam Khan - Arrested and remanded to judicial custody till 25.7.1996.
4. Shri Parmeet Singh Boparai - arrested and remanded to judicial custody, however, he has been released on interim bail on 7.6.1996. Presecution against him has been filed on 11.6.1996.

Export of Poor Quality Items

1103. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint for exporting sub-standard goods to the foreign buyers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to take action against all those exporters who are involved in exporting poor quality of their production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. These complaints mainly relate to non-compliance of mutually agreed product specifications, defective packaging, delivery of wrong items, deterioration or contamination particularly in respect of edible/perishable items. The complaints are promptly investigated and appropriate action is taken against the